(d) if so, what is their number and if not, when such a survey is likely to be made; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take for creating job opportunities for such labourers locally and also to ensure that exploitation of these helpless labourers are stopped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 is intended to safeguard the interests of the workmen who are recruited by contractors from one State for service in an establishment situated in another State and to guard against the exploitation of such workmen by unscrupulous contractors. Whenever complaints are received about the exploitation of migrant labourers, appropriate authorities are asked to take suitable action. The appropriate Government for an establishment under the Act may be either the Central or the State Government. Information about migrating labour from Raipur, Bilaspur, Dhar, Jhabua and Khargone districts of Madhya Pradesh or of other States is not maintained in the Ministry. There is no proposal to make a survey in this regard.

(e) The anti poverty programmes are aimed at creating job opportunities and self-employment opportunities. Area specific programmes like Drought Prone Area Programme etc. also help in this direction. State Governments have been addressed to effectively enforce the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

Import-export Pass Book Scheme

1056. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Import-Export Pass Book Scheme has been modified substantially to simplify its operation; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Import-Export Pass Book Scheme has been substantially amended *vide* Public Notice No. 165/85-88 dated 27th March, 1987, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. Changes have been made both in the operation and scope of the Scheme.

Bonded Labour

1057. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of bonded labour identified and emancipated in various States has increased considerably during the last two years; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is difficult to identify bonded labour without the cooperation of the employers; and

(c) if so, what steps are contemplated to secure their cooperation for making the bonded labour emancipation programme a success in the spirit of 20-Point Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers is the responsibility of the State Governments. According to the reports received from the State Governments, the number of bonded labourers identi-